

The Monctons say they play country, but it ain't like anything that's coming out of Nashville. This band which has been gigging every Sunday at the Casa Mexicana in Manayunk is comprised of former members of Junior League, Cat and Jack Faulkner and ace guitarist and pedal steel player Steve Portman. What they do now along with drummer Ronnie Crawford and (last time I saw them, but subject to change) bassist Dylan Taylor is a hell of a lot more interesting than Junior League. They play originals and covers that range from country to blues to their personal favorites from the Band to the Burrito Brothers, but the sound is ethereal and floating with jazz overtones. They can snap back to a straight Hank Williams song and then stretch out to all kinds of instrumental wildness. They're really not like anything else. Also on this show presented by the Art Institute are local songwriter Ben Arnold who filled in at the songwriter's workshop at the Folk Festival and was one of the more exciting voices, and another band who likes to stretch it out a bit, Peter's Cathedral. It should be a damn fine evening of local music.

The Monctons, Ben Arnold and Peter's Cathedral: Sat., Sept. 12 at 8 p.m. at TLA, 334 South St., 922-1011.

--Peter Brown